COLLEGE OF MARIN
ACADEMIC SENATE — Minutes
January 22, 2026
Call to Order: 12:45 PM — AC 303

Senators Present: Dave King, Kristin Perrone, Gina Cullen, Maria Coulson, Luna Finlayson, Ian Sethre, Logan Wood, Ron Oxford, Kevin Muller, Rebecca Beal, Kyle Beattie, Caitlin Rolston, LyRyan Russell, Alex Jones
Senators Absent: None
Guests Present: None

I. Agenda
Agenda reviewed (King/Muller), revised, and approved.
II. Minutes
Minutes from December 11
Approved (King/Muller), with King abstaining.
III. Public Requests
- None.

IV. Officers' Reports
A. President (Maria Coulson)
- Welcomed back VP Dave King and thanked former Acting VP Gina Cullen.
- **Bookstore & Beyond / Follett:**
  - VP Puch requested Senate's approval for moving Bookstore & Beyond fully online.
  - Senators indicated support **as long as ESL ordering/access needs are addressed**.
  - Additional funding (approx. **$3,000/month**) would support book-type activities; Magda Levin has been a vocal advocate for ESL needs/concerns on the B&B task force.
  - President Eldridge requested a meeting with the Bookstore & Beyond committee prior to a final decision.
  - Follett requires approximately **six months lead time**; ESL and other faculty should plan accordingly.
    - **Clarifying Burden-Free / Instructional Materials Access:**
      - College should work toward burden-free goals by 2030.
      - A policy framework must be written first.
- **Brown Act update:**
  - Brown Act requirements were updated; changes do not significantly impact the Senate.
  - Senate agendas must now be posted **72 hours in advance on the website**.
B. Vice President (Dave King)
- **Conferences & Learning Communities**
  - WebAIM Accessible Document Trainings, February 2nd-April 29th cohort open for registration.
  - 19th Annual African American Male Student Success Summit, March 5th-6th in Long Beach. Accepting scholarship applications for faculty.
  - Artificial Intelligence and Academia 2026, March 19th-21st in Costa Mesa. Calls for proposal open until 1/30.
  - Spring Plenary, April 9th-11th in Santa Rosa.
- **Webinars**

- o Monday, February 2nd: 1:30pm-2:30pm: [Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Being an Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI) Discipline Lead but Were Afraid to Ask (AKA OERI Discipline Lead Information Session)](#)

V. Committee Reports

A. SLO Coordinators (Logan Wood)

Provided an update on SLOs. Departments with 100% completion rate are: COMM, ECE, Fine Arts, MATH, Modern Languages, and Transportation and Applied Tech.

B. Sabbatical Committee (Caitlin Rolston and Luna Finlayson)

Applicants have been notified of their awards and denials. The committee met twice last semester during finals week. They received the applications the week before. The timeline did not allow for further meetings. Senators Rolston and Finlayson noted their discomfort with that, and that the past practice of working with applicants to revise had not been followed, as well as other points of confusion.

VI. Equivalency

The Senate reviewed the memo from outside counsel to HR/GC; reviewed AP 7211 and AP 7212 (Part-Time AP); and EQ practices to determine path forward.

- A memo from legal counsel indicated equivalency is referenced in several areas and may be subject to Brown Act requirements, but ASCCC disagrees with this interpretation; equivalency work is handled as **closed session** in Senate meetings at the one college where the EQ committee follows Brown Act.
- Senators discussed equivalency issues arising most frequently during **expedited hires** (emergency hires), where qualifications are discovered to be incomplete after the candidate has been approached about classes.

Committee structure discussion:

- Senate reviewed ASCCC guidance and practices at other single-college districts.
- A consistent, ongoing faculty advisory group (ad hoc advisory to Senate) was identified as a possible approach.
- Discipline-faculty requirements were noted as a COM-specific practice; the Senate will retain the ability to consult departments/disciplines as needed.

AP 7212 (Part-Time AP) — proposed direction:

- Strike the full section referencing the "equivalency committee."
- Senate preference is to keep the committee structure under Academic Senate purview so changes can be made without revising an AP.
- Strike "the AS President" from AP language.

AP 7211 — proposed direction / questions raised:

- Discussed whether a separate document should define the committee structure rather than embedding details in an AP.
- Recommended striking "or designee"
- Change "district may elect to award" to "The process may result in awarding**…**" ("the district" causes confusion over who is awarding anything.)

If Brown Act applies (contingency plan):

- Committee would consist of 3 members:
  - o AS President (or designee) as chair

- VP (or designee; may chair if needed)
  - One additional senator or more
- Advisory consultation from Senate/Curriculum Committee first, then departments as determined by chair.
- Meetings could be folded into an existing Thursday schedule.

If Brown Act does not apply:
- Same structure, but meetings could occur via Zoom as needed, with a designated standing time of Thursdays at 2:00 PM.

Additional needs identified:
- Establish a clearly stated mechanism for appeal.

VII. Academic Freedom
Discussion
- Reviewed statement from Vice President. Senators questioned why this statement was needed and how it differed from the Contract and relevant AP/BPs. The Senate elected not to endorse at this time.

VII. Adjournment
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

For more information about Academic Senate minutes, contact AS Secretary
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